

# GRAPHICAL COMPASS CONVERSION CHART AND TABLES

COMPILED BY

MAJOR JOHN F. FAIRCHILD

56TH PIONEER INFANTRY, U. S. ARMY



D. VAN NOSTRAND COMPANY

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Hq., Prov. Depot for Corps and Army Troops,  
Camp Wadsworth, 6/13/18.

To the Adjutant General of the Army, Washington, D.C.

1. Recommending approval.

2. This chart appeals to me as an excellent piece of work for which Major Fairchild should receive commendation. Its utility in visualizing and comparing angles according to the several systems is obvious, and I think of sufficient value to warrant approval. Major Fairchild was an engineer before entry into Federal Service and has performed some engineering work for me with marked ability.

GUY CARLETON,  
Brigadier General,  
Commanding.

.061 (Pub. Div.)  
A. G. O., July 9, 1918.

To Major John F. Fairchild, Hq. 1st Corps Troops,  
Camp Wadsworth, S. C.

Your letter reference "Publication of Graphical  
Compass Conversion Chart" is approved.

By order of the Secretary of War,

F. W. LEWIS,  
Adjutant General.

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Engineering

# GRAPHICAL

# COMPASS CONVERSION

## CHART AND TABLES

Compiled by

**Major John F. Fairchild**

**56th Pioneer Infantry U. S. Army**



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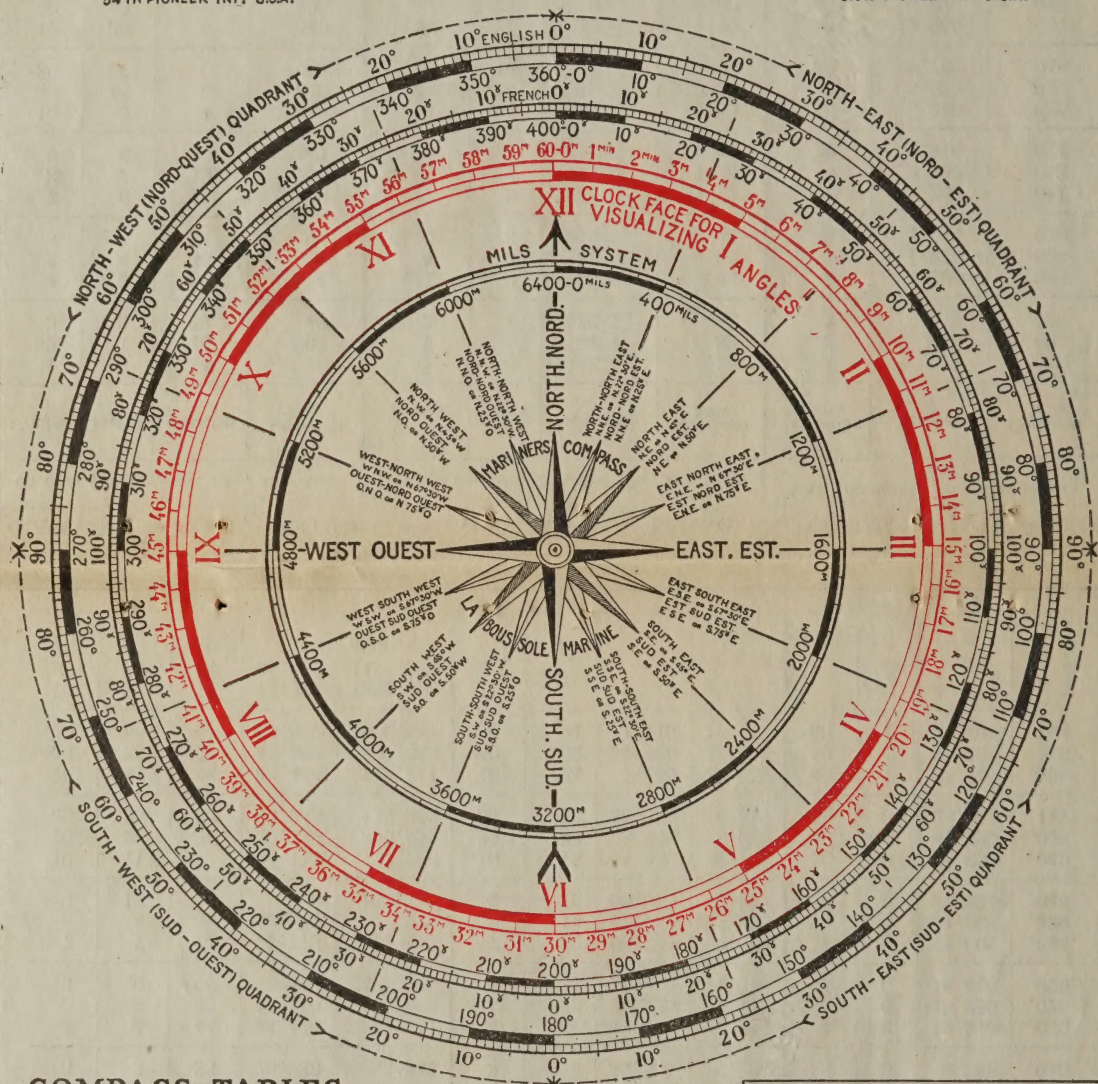
# GRAPHICAL COMPASS CONVERSION CHART AND TABLES

COMPILED BY  
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## COMPASS TABLES

For the  
SEXAGESIMAL (English); CENTESIMAL (French) and MILS (Military) SYSTEMS.

| Degrees     | Minutes  | Seconds | Grades    | Centigrades | Deci-Miligrades | Mils      |
|-------------|----------|---------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1° = 60'    | 1' = 60" | 3600"   | 1° = 100' | 1° = 100'   | 11.111"         | 17.778 M. |
|             |          |         |           |             | 85.185"         | .296 M.   |
|             |          |         |           |             | 3.086"          | .005 M.   |
| 54' = 3240" |          |         | 1° = 100' | 1° = 100'   | 10.000"         | 16. M.    |
|             |          |         |           |             | 100"            | .16 M.    |
|             |          |         |           |             | 1"              | .0016 M.  |
| 3' + 22.5"  |          |         | 6° + 25"  |             |                 | 1 Mil     |

Quadrant = 90 Degrees = 100 Grades = 1,600 Mils  
Circle = 360 " = 400 " = 6,400 "

## FRENCH COMPASS SYNONYMS

FROM VARIOUS AUTHORITIES

Grade; Grad; Degree; G; D; °.  
Centigrade; Centesimal;  
Minute Centesimal; Minute ° c.  
Deci-Miligrade; Second;  
Seconde - Centesimal; " ; ° c.

## VARIOUS MILS SYSTEMS

"True"; Tan = 1,000 = 6,283.18 to Circle. = 3° 26' 25" = 6° 36' 62"  
Common 1600 System = 6,400 to Circle. = 3° 22' 5" = 6° 25"  
"Rimailho" System = 6,000 to Circle. = 3° 36" = 6° 66.667"  
German Heavy Artillery = 5,760 to Circle = 3° 45" = 6° 94.444"



GRAPHICAL COMPASS CONVERSION CHART AND TABLES

The graphical chart is designed, primarily, to afford a ready method of comparison between the American (English) and French method of denoting circle and magnetic compass angles and also of comparison with the mils system used in military practice, accompanied by a clock face for assistance in visualizing angles.

It consists of a Mariner's Compass (la marine boussole), showing the twelve principal compass points, and the mariner's designation of each point with their abbreviation and quadrant direction in both English and French.

Outside of the Mariner's Compass is given a circle divided for the 6400 divisions of the "common" mils system.

Outside of the mils circle is given a clock face for assistance in visualizing angles. The inside divisions and numbers give the hours and those outside give the minutes. A clock hand in passing from 12 o'clock to 1 o'clock passes through an angle of 30 degrees or 33 1/3 grades; from 12 to 2 o'clock of 60 degrees or 66 2/3 grades; from 12 to 3 o'clock of 90 degrees or 100 grades and so on around the clock face. Each minute on the clock represents an angle of 6 degrees or 6 2/3 grades.

Next to the clock face is given a circle divided according to the French Centesimal or "grade" system. The inside figures state the divisions from 0-400 grades around the circle, clockwise, while the outside figures state the divisions by quadrants from the north and south.

The outside circle is divided according to the Sexagesimal system (English) used in America. The inside figures state the divisions from 0-360 degrees around the circle, clockwise, while the outside figures state the divisions by quadrants from the north and south.

Outside of the circles are given the English and French designations of the four quadrants.

The "Compass Tables" on the face of the chart give on the left of the upper space the English system complete in itself and in the center of the second space the French system complete in itself. Opposite each of these is given the value of the subdivision in terms of the other system and also

of the "common" mils system. Below is given the value of a mil in each of the other systems and the division of the quadrant and circle by each of the three systems.

The research necessary to obtain accurate information in the preparation of the chart developed the fact that various French and English technical and military dictionaries and works use different terms in referring to the French circle divisions. A table of all such synonyms found is given on the face of the chart. In the chart and tables those terms are used which seemed the most harmonious and euphonious and which afforded no chance for confusion with those used in the other tables.

The research also developed four "mils" systems in use. The original or "true" mils system was devised for military use, so as to give an angle based on a direct relation between the tangent of the angle and the radius of the circle (the range of the artillery) this relation being

1 = tangent
1000 = radius of circle.

This scheme divided the circle into 6283.18 parts, each part being called a "mil." This odd division was found cumbersome and about 1880 Colonel Rimailho, a French officer, devised the system ("Rimailho") of using an even 6000 parts to the circle instead of 6283.18, making an error of 283.18 parts from the "true" system.

This amount of error was found unsatisfactory and the "common" mils system of 6400 divisions to the circle was adopted, this number being the nearest even hundred to the "true" system, making an error of only 116.82 points instead of 283.18 as in the "Rimailho" system.

A table of these four mil systems is given on the face of the chart.

The chart can be used as a protractor by cutting out a small triangle at the 180 degrees—0 degrees or 90 degrees—90 degrees points and half of the small circle in the center of the mariner's compass and using a ruler to carry the angle over the chart paper.

The general Conversion Tables accompanying the chart will enable the use in computation of any table of logarithms or natural functions by converting the given angle into the angular designation on which is based the available table of logarithms or natural functions.

Table with 10 columns: Grades, Degrees, Minutes, Common Mils, Centigrades, Minutes, Seconds, Common Mils, Decimigrades, Seconds, Common Mils. It provides conversion data for various systems including Centesimal, Sexagesimal, and Mil systems.

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# CONVERSION TABLE COMMON MILS SYSTEM TO SEXAGESIMAL AND CENTESIMAL SYSTEMS

MILS TO DEGREES, ETC., AND GRADES, ETC.

| Common<br>Mils | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Grades | Centi-<br>grades | Decimili-<br>grades |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|------------------|---------------------|
| 1              | 0       | 3       | 22.5    | 0      | 6                | 25                  |
| 2              | 0       | 6       | 45      | 0      | 12               | 50                  |
| 3              | 0       | 10      | 07.5    | 0      | 18               | 75                  |
| 4              | 0       | 13      | 30      | 0      | 25               | 0                   |
| 5              | 0       | 16      | 52.5    | 0      | 31               | 25                  |
| 6              | 0       | 20      | 15      | 0      | 37               | 50                  |
| 7              | 0       | 23      | 37.5    | 0      | 43               | 75                  |
| 8              | 0       | 27      | 0       | 0      | 50               | 0                   |
| 9              | 0       | 30      | 22.5    | 0      | 56               | 25                  |
| 10             | 0       | 33      | 45      | 0      | 62               | 50                  |
| 20             | 1       | 07      | 30      | 1      | 25               | 0                   |
| 30             | 1       | 41      | 15      | 1      | 87               | 50                  |
| 40             | 2       | 15      | 0       | 2      | 50               | 0                   |
| 50             | 2       | 48      | 45      | 3      | 12               | 50                  |
| 60             | 3       | 22      | 30      | 3      | 75               | 0                   |
| 70             | 3       | 56      | 15      | 4      | 37               | 50                  |
| 80             | 4       | 30      | 0       | 5      | 0                | 0                   |
| 90             | 5       | 03      | 45      | 5      | 62               | 50                  |
| 100            | 5       | 37      | 30      | 6      | 25               | 0                   |
| 200            | 11      | 15      | 0       | 12     | 50               | 0                   |
| 300            | 16      | 52      | 30      | 18     | 75               | 0                   |
| 400            | 22      | 30      | 0       | 25     | 0                | 0                   |
| 500            | 28      | 07      | 30      | 31     | 25               | 0                   |
| 600            | 33      | 45      | 0       | 37     | 50               | 0                   |
| 700            | 39      | 22      | 30      | 43     | 75               | 0                   |
| 800            | 45      | 0       | 0       | 50     | 0                | 0                   |
| 900            | 50      | 37      | 30      | 56     | 25               | 0                   |
| 1000           | 56      | 15      | 0       | 62     | 50               | 0                   |
| 1100           | 61      | 52      | 30      | 68     | 75               | 0                   |
| 1200           | 67      | 30      | 0       | 75     | 0                | 0                   |
| 1300           | 73      | 07      | 30      | 81     | 25               | 0                   |
| 1400           | 78      | 45      | 0       | 87     | 50               | 0                   |
| 1500           | 84      | 22      | 30      | 93     | 75               | 0                   |
| 1600           | 90      | 0       | 0       | 100    | 0                | 0                   |

To reduce other mils systems to "Common" mils, multiply "True" mils by 1.018592; multiply "Rimailho" mils by 1.066667; multiply German H. A. mils by 1.111111.

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